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**"DoD and the Environment"**

**Address of  
The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology  
Dr. Paul G. Kaminski  
to the  
Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Ceremony  
Washington D.C.**

**April 25, 1996**

Good afternoon. It's an honor to be here today -- during the twenty-sixth anniversary of Earth Week -- to recognize the outstanding contributions of our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and civilians in protecting and restoring the environment. We are also here to celebrate Earth Week with the rest of the nation.

We have long recognized that military installations are a vital economic resource for communities. In fact, they are often the single largest employer in a region. But military installations also contribute to the social, political, and environmental fabric of a community. They play a key role in protecting the air and water and in conserving our land and energy resources. We in the Department of Defense are committed to being good neighbors and good stewards of the resources we use in carrying out our national defense mission.

Today I want to do three things. First, I want to recognize and thank the thousands of DoD employees who are on the front lines in executing the Department's Environmental Security programs; I want to congratulate the award winners we have here today; and I want to share a few of my own thoughts on some of the important contributions DoD's Environmental Security program is making.

I want to start out by saying that Environmental Security is critical to the defense mission, and to the three primary objectives of the Secretary of Defense: **Readiness, Quality of Life, and Modernization.**

**First, Its a Military Readiness Issue:** DoD manages over 25 million acres of land. These resources are critical to our mission. To maintain readiness, we must be able to conduct realistic and cost-effective training. Our forces must have continued access to airspace, land and water for training and testing. Environmentally safe practices preserves our access to these natural resources.

This is a large and critical responsibility that our civilian and military environmental personnel perform superbly. Their performance is well illustrated by some of today's award winners:

Like Tyndall Air Force Base -- home to the 325th Fighter Wing and tasked to train F-15 pilots to maintain world air superiority -- has worked hard to protect significant endangered species like the Loggerhead Sea Turtle and the piping plover, while ensuring Tyndall's ability to perform its training mission.

**Environmental Security is also a Quality of Life Issue:** DoD's environment program protects military personnel and their families from health and safety hazards where they live and work. It also ensures good quality of life for our adjacent communities.

Our award winners today demonstrate significant quality of life improvements:

Like Hurlburt Field, Florida which put in place an aggressive program to protect its workers and families from hazardous exposure to lead-based paints.

Or Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania whose extensive recycling program saved over \$700,000 a year in landfill costs and generated profits of almost \$200,000 that can be returned to moral, welfare and recreation programs.

Our winners also worked closely with surrounding communities to improve quality of life. For example, Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida has put in place one of the very best Restoration Advisory Boards -- made up of a group of local citizens -- to advise the installation commander on the best way to address tough cleanup problems that affect them.

**And Finally, Environmental Security is a Modernization Issue:** Environmental issues contribute to creating a more effective, cost efficient fighting force. One of the most important tasks we face in the Department of Defense is finding the resources we need to invest in new weapon systems. Funding for modernization is at the lowest point in 30 years. One way to fund modernization without increasing DoD's overall budget is to reduce the life cycle costs associated with new and fielded systems. This is an important task where Environmental Security's technical expertise and innovative efforts are needed. We know now that significant environmental costs are embedded in the costs of these systems. In fact, a study conducted by the Army on their Sense and Destroy Armor program found that environmental requirements make up as much as 30% of some phases of the system's life cycle.

These are significant costs. To reduce these costs we must better identify and eliminate the environmental problems through pollution prevention.

One of today's winners is the Kelly AFB pollution prevention team which supports ten different weapon system program managers. Their innovative approaches

to reducing pollution and costs on older, fielded systems like the C-5 is essential -- since such systems will be in our inventory for some time.

I am also particularly proud of our partnership with industry to prevention pollution in our weapon systems. We have launched a Joint Group on Acquisition Pollution Prevention to identify and reduce environmental costs early in development and production. For example, working with Texas Instruments, this group developed alternatives to high volatile organic compound paints. The alternatives are being implemented in a single block change to 151 contracts at the manufacturing facility, an action which will avoid nearly \$5 million through reduced time and manpower. At the same time, it will reduce environmental emissions associated with these contracts by over 40%, helping to meet strict clean air requirements, curb environmental costs, and protect the health of American workers -- both civilian and military -- in the defense industry.

In conclusion, DoD's Environmental Security program an integral role in helping us reach our goals for readiness, quality of life, and force modernization.

We're committed to playing a leadership role on these issues. I want to thank and congratulate each of the award participants today for their leadership in making DoD a responsible steward of the environment.

Thank you very much.